

SENATE RESOLUTION 24

By Gardenhire

A RESOLUTION to commemorate National Medal of Honor Day
on March 25, 2021.

WHEREAS, dedicated to this nation's courageous Medal of Honor recipients, National Medal of Honor Day is nationally observed every year on March 25th; and

WHEREAS, National Medal of Honor Day has been celebrated since 1991, after President George H. W. Bush signed the authorization, Public Law 101-564, on November 15, 1990; and

WHEREAS, National Medal of Honor Day is a time to remember the sacrifices of men and women in uniform who have earned this nation's highest military honor; and

WHEREAS, each branch of the U.S. military awards the Medal of Honor to those service members who have distinguished themselves "conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity" above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, to date, 3,506 Medals of Honor have been awarded, with 618 of them having been conferred posthumously to service members who paid the ultimate price; and

WHEREAS, a Civil War mission behind enemy lines that ended just outside Chattanooga provided the date on which National Medal of Honor Day is observed; and

WHEREAS, six members of Andrew's Raiders, William Bensinger, Robert Buffum, Elihu H. Mason, Jacob Parrott, William Pittenger, and William H. H. Reddick, received the first six Medals of Honor on March 25, 1863, in recognition of their meritorious service during the Great American Chase; and

WHEREAS, ultimately nineteen of the twenty-four brave members of Andrew's Raiders who served in the Great American Chase received the Medal of Honor; and

WHEREAS, thirty-three additional Medals of Honor were awarded a few months later for heroic actions by soldiers in and around Chattanooga during the fall of 1863; and

WHEREAS, these two military events established the incredible heritage of the Medal of Honor, and their similar locations have resulted in Chattanooga being known nationwide as the "Birthplace of the Medal of Honor"; and

WHEREAS, the only female awarded the Medal of Honor to date, Dr. Mary Walker, was recognized for her extraordinary work in the field during the Battle of Chattanooga; and

WHEREAS, Chattanooga is home to the Charles H. Coolidge National Medal of Honor Heritage Center; the Center is named as a tribute to Mr. Coolidge, a native and lifetime resident of Hamilton County who is America's oldest living Medal of Honor recipient to date and one of the final two living recipients from World War II; and

WHEREAS, the National Medal of Honor Heritage Center is home to the approved character-development curriculum currently being taught in Tennessee schools that instills in our students "Patriotism, Citizenship, Courage, Integrity, Sacrifice and Commitment," the six common traits of the ordinary men and women who performed extraordinary acts of valor during wartime; and

WHEREAS, each year on March 25th, citizens across the United States of America pay tribute to those gallant servicemen and servicewomen who persevered in the worst conditions of war to protect the freedoms that we hold most sacred as a nation; and

WHEREAS, the Volunteer State is always at the forefront of patriotism, and this observance is no exception; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we commemorate National Medal of Honor Day on March 25, 2021, and express our gratitude and appreciation for our Medal of Honor recipients and their valiant service.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.